

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with E. Victor Indiano on 10/22/09. It was agreed to amend claim 9 to remove issues of lack of antecedent basis for "preparation" and "steps" and also to end the claim with a period instead of the semi colon; to further amend the claim to use accepted Markush format for the alternative expression using the Markush group.

The application has been amended as follows:

Amend claim 9 as follows:

In claim 9, section 3, line 4, delete "the" after "wherein" and after "includes"

In claim 9, at the last line, replace ":", with ---,--- after "moist"

In claim 9, section 3, replace "a" with ---the---before "group" in the Markush language in order to properly recite the alternative expression with the use of the Markush groups.

Thus Claim 9 as amended is as follows and the listing below will replace all previous listings:

Claims 1-8. (Canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended). The method of forming a film *in situ* upon a mucosal tissue that is wet or moist, comprising:

providing a liquid composition comprising,

1) a volatile solvent; and

2) a water soluble polymer selected from the group consisting of carboxymethylcellulose, and hydroxyethyl cellulose, the water soluble polymer being capable of attaching to a hydrophobic group through covalent bonding.

3) a compound selected from [a]the group consisting of octadecyl isocyanate, hydroxysuccinimide, perfluoro-1-octanesulfonyl fluoride, palmitoyl chloride, and fatty acid chloride; wherein [the] preparation and use of the liquid composition includes [the] steps of modifying the water solubility of the polymer in the liquid composition by attaching a hydrophobic group of the compound selected from [a]the group consisting of octadecyl isocyanate, hydroxysuccinimide, perfluoro-1-octanesulfonyl fluoride, palmitoyl chloride, and fatty acid chloride to the water soluble polymer to produce a water insoluble interaction product; applying the liquid composition to a mucosal tissue that is wet or moist; evaporating the solvent from the liquid composition *in situ*; and forming a film which adheres to a mucosal tissue that is wet or moist[;].

Claims 10 and 14. (Canceled)

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

On Page 1 of the specification, on the first line after the title of the invention, insert:

---This application is a 371 of PCT/US98/22022, filed 10/19/1998.---

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reasons for allowance of claim 9 is the limiting of the compounds in section 3) of the claim, employed to modify the water soluble polymer of section 2) of the claim, to octadecyl isocyanate, hydroxysuccinimide, perfluoro-1-octanesulfonyl fluoride, palmitoyl chloride, and fatty acid chloride.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BLESSING M. FUBARA whose telephone number is (571)272-0594. The examiner can normally be reached on 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (Monday to Thursday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Hartley can be reached on (571) 272-0616. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Blessing M. Fubara/
Examiner, Art Unit 1618